



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

*An Economic History of Rome to the End of the Republic.* By TENNEY FRANK, Professor of Latin in the Johns Hopkins University. (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins Press. 1920. Pp. xi, 310. \$2.50.)

IN contrast to the practices of certain contemporary historians who have analyzed Roman economic conditions, Professor Frank has wisely laid down the principle (p. 110) that "*a priori* methods of interpreting historical development by means of generally accepted economic and psychological maxims must be applied to Roman history only with great reserve". He therefore follows closely the evidence furnished by the inscriptions, by archaeology, and by literature. So far as literature goes, the favorable opinion which he expresses (p. 34 f.) of the trustworthiness of the leading ancient historians of the Republic meets the reviewer's hearty approval, and incidentally leads the author to take a conservative attitude toward certain controverted questions like the patricio-plebeian theory (p. 10), the date of the first treaty with Carthage (p. 30), and the authenticity of the Licinian-Sextian laws (p. 44). From the remains of the intricate draining system in early Latium (p. 6 f.) Frank draws the inference that this region was very fertile and densely populated, and this fact helps us to understand the conquests made by its people. Under Etruscan domination industry and commerce developed in Latium to some extent (p. 27 f.). An interesting side-light is now thrown on trade conditions in this period by the newly published fourth volume of Gsell's *Histoire Ancienne de l'Afrique du Nord*.

The treaties with Carthage and the history of Roman coinage show that trade declined after the expulsion of the Etruscans, and that the Romans turned again to their farms. The first Roman coins do not go back beyond the fourth century, and it is interesting to notice that their issuance acted as an over-issue of currency acts to-day (p. 49). Somewhat the same results followed Alexander's Eastern conquests, when large quantities of silver and gold were put in circulation in the Mediterranean world (p. 69 f.). The deforestation of the Volscian mountains and the gradual exhaustion of the soil made it impossible for the dense population of Latium to win a livelihood from their own land, and the pressure was relieved by territorial expansion. If relief had not come in this way manufacturing, commerce, and the arts might have gained a better foot in Rome (p. 63). The two chapters on Industry constitute one of the most valuable contributions which the author has made to our knowledge of Roman economic conditions. In them he has given us a study of certain industries, like the making of glass, bricks, metal ware, and earthen ware, and has investigated the factory system, so far as the facts concerning it are ascertainable. Of peculiar interest are the inferences which he has drawn from the examination of a typical *insula* in Pompeii (p. 191 ff.) in which there were forty shops and ten resi-

dences. We earnestly hope that he may have the time and opportunity to extend his survey to cover the whole city. All through the Republican period and under the Empire industry and trade suffered because of the Roman's contempt for them, because goods were transported slowly and with difficulty, because the needs of a household were supplied by its slaves, and because the plentiful supply of cheap labor prevented the development of labor-saving devices. The government was at fault, too, in failing to enact patent laws, or to supervise banking, and in not developing business law.

The chapter on Public Finance seems to the reviewer inadequate. While the sources of income and the expenditures of the state are described, nothing is said about financial administration, the appropriation of money by the Senate, and the Roman system of public accounting. The racial situation which Italy faced toward the end of the Republic and in the Early Empire reminds us forcibly of similar conditions which confront us to-day. From the large number of Oriental names in the cemeteries of Italy the author infers that the peninsula was swamped by immigration, mainly from the East (p. 162). Consequently the fact "that reform through orderly compromise gave way (under the Gracchi) to revolution through bloodshed is largely due to the displacement of real Italic peoples by men of Oriental, Punic, and Iberian stock" (p. 119).

It will be clear from this review that this book is not intended to present a survey of the economic life of the whole Roman world; but as a study of the economic development of the city of Rome, the governing centre of the civilized world, it stands alone in its completeness, in the thorough use which the author has made of available evidence, in the sound judgment which he has shown, and in the clear, convincing way in which he has set forth his conclusions.

FRANK FROST ABBOTT.

#### BOOKS OF MEDIEVAL AND MODERN EUROPEAN HISTORY

*The Mennonites: a Brief History of their Origin and Later Development in both Europe and America.* By C. HENRY SMITH, Ph.D. (Berne, Ind.: Mennonite Book Concern. 1920. Pp. 340. \$2.25.)

A TIME when a world war is hardly ended and when conscientious objectors are still persecuted and lingering in prisons, is not an auspicious time for a history of the Mennonites. It is most timely, however, for the Mennonites themselves, who have passed through a deep experience and have been compelled to search their souls anew for the basis of their faith. They will find strength in learning that their forbears for four centuries have suffered martyrdom for conscience' sake. It is for them that Dr. Smith's book, which is the fruition of two decades of hope, is written.